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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Mahalingam, et al.  
Serial No.: 10/034,186  
Filed: December 28, 2001  
For: TOPICAL LIGHTENING COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS OF USE  
Art Unit: 1654  
Examiner: P.A. Patten  
Confirmation No.: 7732  
Customer No.: 27623

Attorney Docket No.: 680.0054USU  
Date: June 14, 2004

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicants duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, we are enclosing form PTO-1449 listing information that may be material to the patentability of this application.

We are also enclosing a copy of each of the following citations that are listed in form PTO-1449: Foreign Patent Nos.: EP 0821967; JP 07187989; JP 07187988 and JP 08291057, as well as a copy of the European Search Report of corresponding European Application No. 02028448.5.

It is applicants belief that none of the above citations describe that which is claimed in the present invention.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the citations that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed citations and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

Since this paper contains only an IDS in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it should not be considered a failure to engage in reasonable efforts to conclude prosecution (processing or examination) of the application under paragraphs 37 CFR 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", is written over the typed name.

Charles N.J. Ruggiero

Reg. No. 28,468

Attorney for Applicant(s)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing:

1. Information Disclosure Statement with copies of references;
2. PTO Form 1449;
3. Transmittal letter in duplicate; and
4. Postcard.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any such fees, if necessary to Deposit Account No. 01-0467 in the name of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles N.J. Ruggiero  
Reg. No. 28,468  
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.  
One Landmark Square, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Stamford, Connecticut 06901-2682  
(203) 327-4500

Date: June 14, 2004

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: Mail Stop Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON June 14, 2004.

Leslie Moscatello  
NAME

Leslie Moscatello  
SIGNATURE

6/14/04  
DATE

CUSTOMER NO.: 27623

Sheet 1 of 1.

FORM PTO-1449

Docket Number (Optional)

Application Number

680.0054USU

10/034,186

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
IN AN APPLICATION

Applicant

Mahalingam et al.

Filing Date

December 28, 2001

Group Art Unit

1654

(Use several sheets if necessary)

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|--------------------|------|------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|                     |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                     |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |
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|                     |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|   | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE       | COUNTRY               | CLASS | SUBCLASS | Translation |    |
|---|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|   |                    |            |                       |       |          | YES         | NO |
| J | EP0821967          | 04.02.1998 | EP                    |       |          |             | X  |
|   | JP 07187989        | 25.07.1995 | Japan (abstract only) |       |          |             |    |
|   | JP 07187988        | 25.07.1995 | Japan (abstract only) |       |          |             |    |
|   | JP 08291057        | 05.11.1996 | Japan (abstract only) |       |          |             |    |
|   |                    |            |                       |       |          |             |    |
|   |                    |            |                       |       |          |             |    |
|   |                    |            |                       |       |          |             |    |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | European Search Report of corresponding European Application No. 02028448.5 |
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|  |   |
|  |   |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.